

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic West Virginia University Neo-Classical Revival Buildings, Thematic Grouping

and or common Oglebay Hall

2. Location

street & number University Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Morgantown ___ vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Monongalia code 061

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<u>Thematic Group</u>		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name West Virginia Board of Regents

street & number P. O. Box 3368

city, town Charleston ___ vicinity of state WV 25333

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Monongalia County Courthouse

street & number High Street at Courthouse Square

city, town Morgantown state WV

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Properties Inventory (HPU) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date May 1983 ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records History Department, West Virginia University

city, town Morgantown state WV

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Oglebay Hall was completed in 1918 and presents an imposing sight in the center of West Virginia University's downtown campus as an example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture, combining brick and concrete to give the building a look of solidity.

Large air vents top the almost flat hip roof. An unadorned concrete roofline tops the third story. Four massive Roman Doric columns support the front pediment with a false, concrete railing at the third story and the building name engraved in the entablature. A concrete cornice separates the second and third story windows. Concrete architraves top the double brick pilasters at the corners of the building. There is a concrete water table over the high basement, and high concrete stairs with brick railings lead to the front of the building. A unique feature of the building is the book-like designs in the concrete between the first and second story windows. Windows have 6/1 lights and are framed by concrete.

The building's interior features plaster walls, wood doors and frames, and tiled concrete floors. There are enclosed stairways at each end of the building, and interior hallways run lengthwise down the center of the rows of classrooms and offices.

Oglebay Hall's Neo-Classical Revival style is based to a large extent on Roman architectural designs. The pediment and columns follow Roman designs. Massive pilasters at regular intervals on the facade and the symmetrical arrangement of the building follow the Neo-Classical Revival style. The common bond brick exterior and 6/1 light windows vary from usual Neo-Classical Revival features of smooth stone finishes and single-light windows.

3. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	military	social	
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian	
1800-1899	commerce	exploration/settlement	philosophy	theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	communications	industry	politics/government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

Specific dates 1918 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Oglebay Hall, originally West Virginia University's agricultural building, represents the university's heritage as a land-grant institution established for the study of agricultural sciences; it stands at the center of the downtown campus and is one of the most imposing buildings on the university campus. Its plaza has become a center for ceremonies as well as a memorial to the USS West Virginia which sank during the Pearl Harbor attack.

The building was completed in 1918 and named for Board of Regents member E. W. Oglebay in order to induce a donation from Oglebay on behalf of the university. That ploy failed.

E. W. Oglebay was an influential West Virginia Republican who maintained his political base in Cleveland, Ohio, and allied himself with railroad magnate Sen. Stephen B. Elkins. He had a great interest in agriculture and owned a large farm near Wheeling which was eventually bestowed to the City of Wheeling for use as a park, while his mansion is now administered by Oglebay Institute as a museum. Oglebay was an alumnus and trustee Bethany College near Wheeling. Thus, he preferred to bestow gifts upon his alma mater. He donated a farm to the college and built Oglebay Hall of Agriculture on the Bethany campus. However, West Virginia University attempted to use its advantage as the state's leading agriculture research center to play upon Oglebay's interests in agriculture and generosity. As part of its effort to win his favor, WVU conferred an honorary doctorate on him in 1919.

The College of Agriculture vacated Oglebay Hall in 1961 and moved to a new building on the Evansdale campus. Since 1962, Oglebay has been used for offices and classrooms and currently houses the psychology department. The mast and ship's bell from the USS West Virginia stand in front of the building and make that plaza a West Virginia memorial to its war dead.

Oglebay Hall sits imposingly at the center of the downtown West Virginia University campus visibly from just about every vista. The Neo-Classical Revival style is evident in the four Roman Doric columns that support the front pediment and the balustrade at the top. Its mass and setting make it the focal point of campus.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Morgantown North, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Randall Gooden and Mortar Board senior honorary (Elizabeth Moore Hall)

organization WVU Public History Option date July 19, 1985

street & number Dept. of History, West Virginia Univ. telephone 304-293-2421

city or town Morgantown state WV

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Anne M. Jankov*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 10/24/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory--Nomination Form

For NPS use only
name of site
date entered

Continuation sheet WVU Neo-Classical Revival Item number 9 Page 2
Oglebay Hall

Boundary descriptions and floor plans from files of WVU Facilities Planning and Management Office

Amber, Charles Henry. A History of Education in West Virginia from Early Colonial Times to 1949. Huntington, WV: Standard Printing & Publishing Co., Inc., 1951.

Doherty, William T. and Summers, Festus P. West Virginia University: Symbol of Unity in a Sectionalized State. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Press, 1982.

Core, Earl L. The Monongalia Story: A Bicentennial History. Vol. 3. Discord. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1979.

Core, Earl L. The Monongalia Story: A Bicentennial History. Vol. 4. Industrialization. Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1982.

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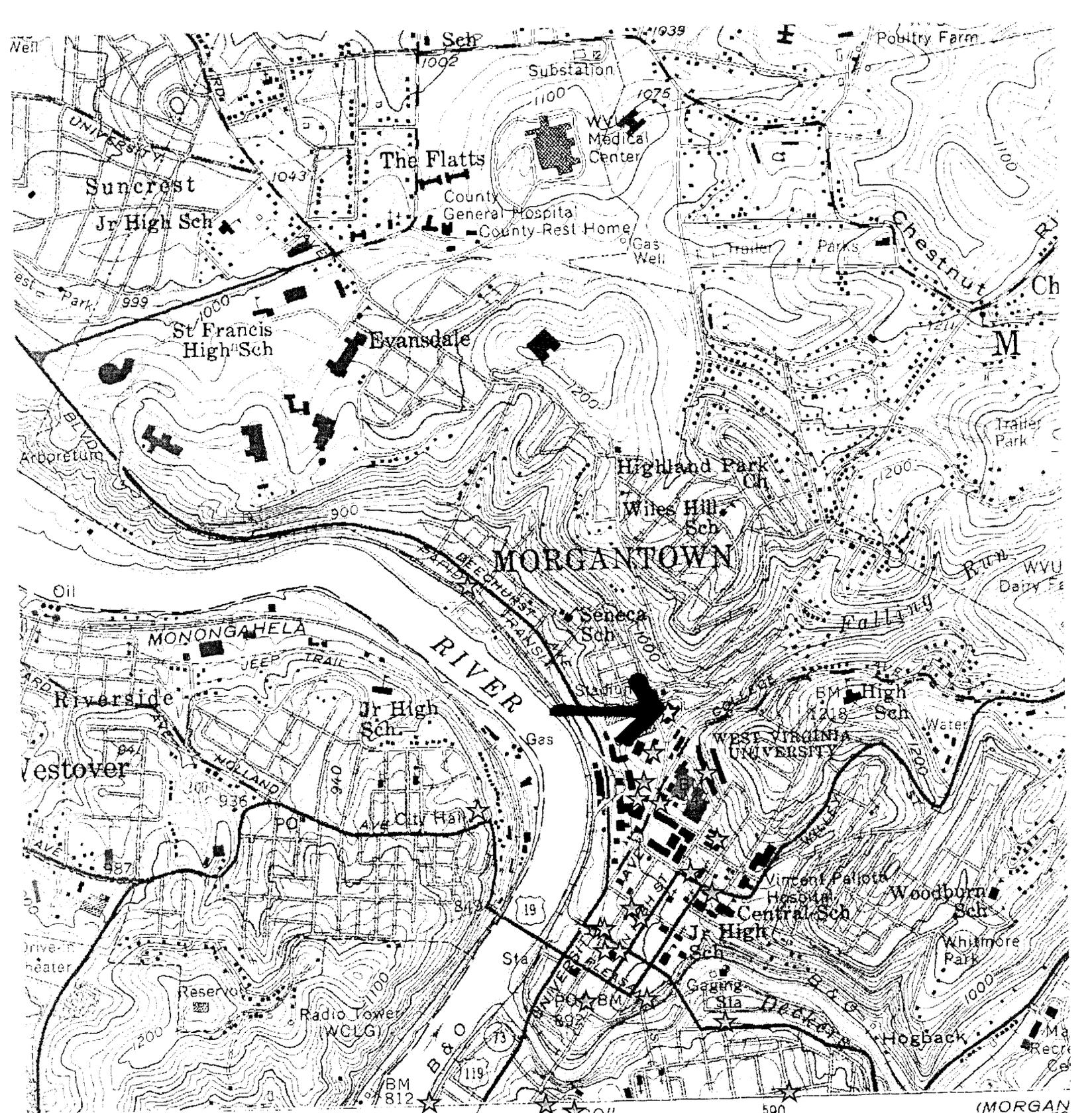
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Continuation sheet WVU Neo-Classical Revival Item number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Oglebay Hall

From point of beginning follow College Avenue 438 feet southwest to juncture of College Avenue and University Avenue, thence following University Avenue 288 feet to point, thence 54 feet southeast to Point, thence following driveway 215 feet northeast to point, thence 129 feet southeast to Point of Beginning. (See attached maps)



16 MI
 Survey

GRAFTON JUNC U.S. 50 26 MI

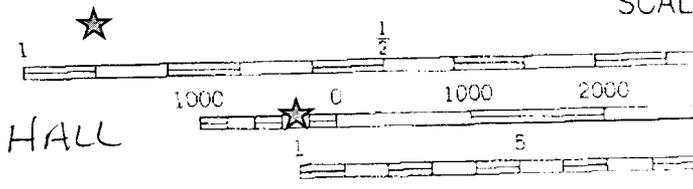
(MORGAN 50)
 SCAL

system,
 h zone

6°
 107 MILS

0°41'
 12 MILS

OGLEBAY HALL



CONTOUR I
 NATIONAL GEODETIC

